

Filed for intro on 03/15/2000

SENATE RESOLUTION 73
By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to designate May, 2000 as "Stroke
Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, every minute in the United States, someone experiences a stroke, with over 500,000 strokes occurring each year; and

WHEREAS, strokes are our nation's third leading cause of death, claiming 150,000 lives each year; and

WHEREAS, strokes are the leading cause of adult disabilities, permanently impairing the lives of more than three million Americans; and

WHEREAS, strokes cost our economy more than \$40 billion annually in lost work hours and direct costs of care, thus creating enormous strains on the financial and emotional resources of affected families; and

WHEREAS, strokes kill more than twice as many American women every year as breast cancer; and

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WHEREAS, following four decades of decline, the stroke death rate in the United States has begun to increase; and

WHEREAS, several organizations have been established in the Southeast to address the need for prevention and treatment and to lend support to the affected citizens of the region; and

WHEREAS, one such group is the Stroke Belt Consortium; formed in 1994, the Consortium consists of over 350 members involving more than 36 organization and specialties, including physicians and other health care providers, pharmacists and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, federal and state government officials, representatives of the American Heart Association and National Stroke Association, managed care groups, state medical associations, and media specialists; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium's goals are to improve both public and professional awareness of all people who live in the Stroke Belt states of Alabama, Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia through several state-based initiatives to improve stroke education and to fund pilot grants and demonstration projects to enhance awareness, prevention, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jeff Harris is a Stroke Neurologist on the staff at Vanderbilt Medical Center, serves as state director of community education programs for stroke, and has been actively involved in the development of stroke awareness; and

WHEREAS, throughout the nation, the month of May is designated as "Stroke Awareness Month"; and

WHEREAS, in observance of National Stroke Awareness Month, the state of Tennessee should join the National Stroke Association in a major initiative to educate the public about the dangers and prevention of strokes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby designate May, 2000 as "Stroke Awareness Month" in Tennessee, and encourage the public to become better informed on matters of stroke prevention and stroke symptoms and treatment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That each member of the Senate is encouraged to participate in stroke screenings during session on May 3rd and 4th, to be administered by Dr. Harris in the Senate Speaker's office across from the Senate Chamber.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.